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The Mississippi Basin: The Struggle in America between England and France, 1697-1763. With full cartographical illustrations from contemporary sources. By JUSTIN WINSOR. Pp. ix, 464. Price, \$4.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1895.

In dedicating his recent book to Clements Robert Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. Winsor honors a man, who, like himself, "knows how the physiography of a continent influences its history, how it opens avenues of discovery, directs lines of settlement and gives to the natural rulers of the earth their coigne of vantage." Though there may be other compelling influences, he deems no other control so steady.

This book is a continuation of the series opened by "Cartier to Frontenac," with which it is uniform in size and style. Naturally it is a history not so much of discovery as of struggle, a record not of plotting rivers and mountain ranges but of re-adjusting political boundaries.

At the beginning of this epoch the English occupied simply the strip of territory east of the Alleghanies stretching from Acadia to Spanish Florida, but under the "sea-to-sea" charters the English insisted on territorial rights extending westward to the New Albion of Drake. The French held the mouths of the two great waterways; they had explored the St. Lawrence system, and La Salle had followed the Mississippi to the Gulf. The French claimed that the right of discovery entitled them to the basins drained by these great rivers. From such clashing claims nothing but conflict could ensue. This book is devoted to setting forth the protracted and complicated struggles between the races for the prize of the great inland plain, struggles which ended in the conquest of Canada by the English, and in the establishment of their claims to territory as far west as the Mississippi.

The details of these operations could not fail to be perplexing, but the broad lines of policy are clear. Among the most interesting topics are the contrasts between the English and French as colonists and as traders with the Indians, especially in their land policy: "John Law and the Mississippi Bubble;" "The Albany Congress;" "Braddock's Campaign;" and "The Winning of the Ohio and St. Lawrence in 1758-9." The English royal generals are made to cut a sorry figure in comparison with their French rivals. Yet the blame for the early inefficiency is not attributed entirely to their "fussy imbecility;" the record of inertia and discord among the colonists is not inspiring.

Contemporary maps are rather less numerous than in the earlier book. A few modern charts have been inserted; it may be questioned whether in a book so crammed with geographical data several comprehensive present-day charts would not save the reader much reference

to the atlas, and add to his intelligent interest in the "full cartographical illustrations from contemporary sources," without bringing him into that "bondage to the modern map" which Freeman so deplored.

The purist will meet with some surprises. He may think that a few such words as "fundament," "abided" and "vagabondish" deserve, as Mr. Winsor would say, to be "re-Englished."

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The Poor in Great Cities, Their Problems and What is Doing to Solve Them. BY ROBERT A. WOODS, W. T. ELSING, JACOB A. RIIS, WILLARD PARSONS, EVERETT J. WENDELL, ERNEST FLAGG, WILLIAM JEWETT TUCKER, JOSEPH KIRKLAND, SIR WALTER BESANT, EDMUND R. SPEARMAN, JESSIE WHITE MARIO and OSCAR CRAIG. Pp. xxi, 400. Price, \$3.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.

Most serious students of social science will misjudge this volume at the first glance because of its outward appearance. That such pre-judgment is not justified becomes apparent as soon as one begins to read in this interesting collection of essays.

This volume makes no pretense at being a solid, scientific treatise on poverty and pauperism. There is no connection between the several papers except that they all deal with some feature of city poverty, and the order of arrangement is confusing. We are first told about "The Social Awakening in London," by Mr. Woods. Then we pass over to America and view "Life in New York Tenement Houses, as Seen by a City Missionary," Rev. William T. Elsing; see "The Children of the Poor," as described by Mr. Riis; are then told "The Story of the Fresh-Air Fund," by Mr. Willard Parsons and the history of the "Boys' Clubs in New York," by Mr. E. J. Wendell. President William J. Tucker follows and describes "The Work of Andover House in Boston," and Mr. Joseph Kirkland relates what has been done "Among the Poor of Chicago." We are then again transported to England to "A Riverside Parish" of London, which Sir Walter Besant delineates. After Mr. Spearman's account of the "School for Street Arabs" in Paris comes a description by Miss Mario of the life of "The Poor in Naples." Returning to New York the reader is told about "The Agencies for the Prevention of Pauperism," by the late Mr. Oscar Craig and following this comes a second paper on "The New York Tenement House Evil and Its Cure," by Mr. Ernest Flagg. To a greater or less degree each writer deals with similar phases and reiterates observations, arguments and proposals given by